

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING

KERRVILLE, TEXAS
JULY 19, 2016

On July 19, the Kerrville City Council special meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Fine at the BCFS Resources Center, 1127 Main Street, Kerrville, Texas First Floor Training Room.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephen P. Fine	Mayor Pro Tem
Glenn Andrew	Councilmember
Gary F. Stork	Councilmember

COUNCILMEMBER ABSENT: None

Bonnie White	Mayor
Gene Allen	Councilmember

CITY CORE STAFF PRESENT:

Brenda Craig	City Secretary
--------------	----------------

Discuss Further Support for the Recovery Community in Kerrville:

Jason Howell, Executive Director of RecoveryPeople.org and Soberhood.org;
Kimber Falkinburg, National Program Manager, Young People in Recovery (YPR)
Tony Farmer, Local YPR representative
met with councilmembers to discuss the requirements of Ordinance 2013-06.

Mr. Howell noted that persons in recovery met the definition of disabled under the civil rights definition. He questioned whether the city's ordinance met the federal fair housing guidelines for housing for the disabled. He opined that the city's ordinance raised barriers for disabled persons, restricted fair housing choice, and placed additional requirements above what was required of other classes, for example, a family group should have the same health and safety issues as disabled persons in a group home. He opined that the ordinance was discriminatory and eventually would be repealed.

Ms. Faulkner noted that the ordinance required substantial licensing and inspection and exempted 15 groups, i.e. nursing homes, hotels, churches, retirement communities, universities, etc. thereby protecting some classes of people. She proposed the city provide the same regulations for all group homes equally by removing all exemptions. She also opined that the ordinance had caused several homes to close and hindered new homes from opening and asked that the city look at the unintended consequences. She questioned the legality of the ordinance and opined it was illegal under the Fair Housing Act and established discriminatory policies.

Mr. Farmer noted the ordinance had caused some group homes to move outside the city limits; this caused difficulty in getting people connected to the services and transportation they needed in order to maintain recovery. He requested a

coalition to work together to solve housing and other issues; YPR had been left out of previous conversations.

Councilmembers also discussed the following:

- Not the intent of the ordinance to set barriers, rather, to provide adequate services, particularly in emergency situations.
- Recovery homes were not comparable to businesses as businesses provided sales tax, used less city services, and provided jobs. (It was stated that the city should look at recovery homes like businesses.)
- The ordinance as written is legal.
- Will look at ordinances from other cities.

YPR representatives requested the council consider amendments to Ordinance No. 2013-06 regarding the following:

1. ½ mile distance requirement, proximity to another licensed group home.
2. Reasonable accommodations.
3. Adjust fees.
4. Delete exceptions to make all homes equal.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

APPROVED: 09/27/2016

ATTEST:

/s/

Stephen Fine, Mayor Pro Tem

/s/

Brenda Craig City Secretary